



APPLE BITES

TEACHING IS A CALLING

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SPRING 2006

Summertime is Paradise for Lifelong Learners

Spring may be the time for Mother Nature to rejuvenate herself, but we know teachers don't stop running until that last school bell rings. Even then, second jobs and family duties may not leave you a lot of R&R. What we can offer you is a chance to delve into some fresh ideas. Face it- if you're a teacher, you enjoy learning and come fall, you will be looking forward to passing something new on to 'your kids.'

Elementary and middle school teachers who attend the Summer Science Institute will receive a new CD to help incorporate more guided inquiry and higher order thinking into student learning. The three-day institutes will also emphasize embedding literacy into the science curriculum.

Teachers of gifted students will have the opportunity to practice the strategies they learn during the summer academy with volunteer students. More information on The Academy for Teachers of the Gifted can be found at www.mtsu.edu/~gifted.

Read Tennessee is a new offering this year for K-5 teachers to reinforce reading as the key to student achievement in all subject areas. One-day seminars will introduce the new initiative being rolled out in June. Teachers of grades 6-12 will also be introduced to Read Tennessee during the 2006 High Schools Summit.

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Apple Bites is a newsletter to provide direct communication from the Tennessee Department of Education to teachers statewide. What would you like to see covered in Apple Bites? Please send ideas, comments, questions and suggestions about this newsletter to Katharine Mosher at katharine.mosher@state.tn.us.



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Teacher Quality Academies will be offered for teachers of math and reading/language arts for grades K-8 in both Introductory and Advanced levels. Advanced academies are for teachers who participated in Highly Qualified Academies in 2004 or 2005. For the first time this year, an academy is being offered for middle school science teachers across the state.

Fans of Robert Marzano's work can work with Dr. Debra Pickering, who co-authored four books with Marzano. Pickering will lead the Tennessee Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Summer Institute, which will explore research that has arisen since the publication of *Classrooms that Work*.

Each summer and throughout the school year, different divisions of the Department offer specialized training to help educators reach their goals for improvement and advancement. Check www.tennessee.gov/education regularly for information on opportunities.

For more details on these summer opportunities, see the table below.



Mark Your Calendars for Summer 2006 Professional Development

| Date | Training | Location | Contact | Deadline |
|--|--|---|--|----------|
| Summer Science Institute | June 13-15 June 19-21 June 27-29 | Clarksville Jackson Mosheim | Linda Jordan (615) 532-6285 | May 26 |
| Teacher Quality Academies: Introductory Advanced Science | Five-day sessions to be held June 12-30 | Brighton- A only Chattanooga- S only Jackson- A only Johnson City- I and S Knoxville- S only Manchester- I only Memphis- I and S Murfreesboro- I only Nashville- ALL Thompson Station- I and A | Sharon Yates sharonyates@comcast.net | Open |
| TN Pre-K Summer Institute | June 19-23 | Nashville | Dale Farran (615) 343-9515 | Open |
| TN Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (TASCD) Summer Institute | July 13-14 | Gatlinburg | Debra Cline debracline@sevier.org | Open |



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Education Legislation:

How the Tennessee General Assembly Impacts You

Have you ever wanted to read about education bills being considered by Tennessee legislators before they become law? You can look up potential laws by the house or senate bill number at www.legislature.state.tn.us. The search result includes a summary of the bill being considered, a fiscal note explaining how much it would cost the state to enact and a history of the actions taken on the bill so far.

Searching by topic without a bill number can be tedious and inefficient. Another option is to view the agendas for legislative committees that consider education legislation. Some of these committees include the House and Senate education committees and the respective finance, ways and means committees. These agendas and schedules can also be viewed at the above Web site. The agendas include the bill being considered each week.

Two bills being considered this legislative session are ...

HB4040/SB3919—This bill would formally change the name of Vocational Technical Education to Career Technical Education.

HB4039/SB3918—In an effort to ease the transition into school for students displaced by disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, this legislation would require no child be denied admission to a public school if lacking proof of immunization due to being homeless.



On Your Mind

Tennessee's Teacher of the Year program is one way the state tries to demonstrate appreciation for the hard work of all teachers. (Left: 2006 Teacher of the Year Dawn Heterick Werner.) Dr. Werner is an exceptionally ambitious and innovative individual, who has attacked her role as teacher of the year with tenacity. In an 11-year career, her dedication to students has extended well beyond the classroom in capacities including consultant to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, member of the Student Support Team and Surrogate Parent for Special Education in Tennessee. Dr. Werner has taught Kindergarten, first and sixth grade and currently is a K-6 Title I teacher at Fairmount Elementary School in the Bristol City School System.

What is one thing that would make you feel more valued and appreciated in your job?

Anonymous responses may be mailed to the Communications Division of the TDOE. (See contact information on page 5.)



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Sales Tax Holiday!!!!

* School supplies are defined as items used by a student in a course of study and does not include art supplies, reference books, printers, CDs and ink cartridges.

* Eligible clothing is defined as general purpose apparel and does not include jewelry, bags, protective equipment or sports equipment.

* Computers must be purchased as a system. Individual accessories, software, MP3s and PDAs are not exempt.

More information is available through the following Department of Revenue sources:

Web site

www.tennessee.gov/revenue

Email

salestax.holiday@state.tn.us

Phone

(800) 342-1003 M-F

In August of this year, Tennessee will hold its first annual sales tax holiday, giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers and clothing tax-free for a specific period of time, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 4 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6. Items exempt from tax during include the following:

| School Supplies (\$100 or less per item) | | Clothing (\$100 or less per item) |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| BINDERS | BACKPACKS | BOOTS |
| BOOKBAGS | CALCULATORS | COAT/JACKET |
| CHALK | COMPASSES | DRESSES |
| COMPOSITION BOOKS | CRAYONS, | EAR MUFFS |
| ERASERS | FOLDERS | GLOVES/MITTENS |
| GLUE | HIGHLIGHTERS | GYM UNIFORMS |
| INDEX CARDS | LEGAL PADS | HATS |
| INDEX CARD BOXES | LUNCH BOXES | JEANS/PANTS |
| MARKERS | NOTEBOOKS | NECKTIES |
| PAPER | PENCIL BOXES | NIGHTGOWNS |
| PENCILS/PENS | RULERS | PAJAMAS |
| PENCIL SHARPENERS | | PONCHOS |
| PROTRACTORS , | SCISSORS, WRITING | RAINCOATS |
| TABLETS | | ROBES |
| COMPUTERS, KEYBOARDS, CABLES, | | SCHOOL UNIFORMS |
| MONITORS, MOUSE, AND PRELOADED | | SHAWLS |
| SOFTWARE VALUED AT \$1,500 OR LESS | | SHIRTS |
| | | SHOES/SOCKS |
| | | UNDERGARMENTS |



APPLE BITES



Spread the Good News

Are you tired of negative news stories about public education, and teachers in particular? With careful planning, there are a number of ways you as a teacher can help spread the word about outstanding people and/or achievements at your school. First, you can work with your district's spokesperson who may be able to send a press release to local media. If your district does not have a person who works with the media, you can be your school's own ambassador and invite the media to cover a special event. Just as powerful as a news story is the editorial page. Writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed column is puts a teacher's perspective in front of thousands of readers each day. Finally, if you think someone or something warrants statewide interest, we would love the opportunity to put positive stories about the teaching profession in the public eye. For information about media training, contact Rachel Woods, director of communications, at (615) 253-1960 or rachel.woods@state.tn.us. To submit a story idea, contact Katharine Mosher, deputy director of communications at (615) 532-3318 or katharine.mosher@state.tn.us.

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[www.tennessee.gov/
education](http://www.tennessee.gov/education)

The Tennessee Department of Education Web site provides information and resources for educators, administrators, parents, students and researchers. It is a work in progress that changes daily in the continuing effort to provide current and updated information to visitors. If you have questions and/or comments, please email them to: education.comments@state.tn.us